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CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Produced by Health Graphics Services • Raquel Madrid-Berkel, Editor

Another Step Forward: Direct Administration of Lead Abatement

by Sara Schubert

The Milwaukee Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program held a press conference on September 26th, 2002, announcing a new and aggressive approach being taken to further the City's progress in eradicating childhood lead poisoning in Milwaukee. Under the authority of **Dr. Seth Foldy**, Commissioner of Health, the Milwaukee Health Department has begun to directly administer lead hazard abatement activity at homes where children are lead poisoned and property owners have not complied to remove those hazards as ordered by the City. The press event was held at a recently abated property; Mayor John Norquist, Health Commissioner Seth Foldy, several aldermen, Tom O'Brien (President, Apartment Association of Southeast Wisconsin), Bob Brueggeman (Vice President, TCF Bank) and several lead poisoning prevention advocates were present.

Remediation of hazards in a timely manner is critical for improving community health outcomes in childhood lead poisoning. Therefore, in order to protect children in cases of non-compliance, ordered lead abatement work commences under the directive of the Milwaukee Health Department. A warrant is issued and the abatement completed by a certified lead abatement contractor.



Mayor John Norquist and Commissioner Foldy listen to the testimony of Anissia Tucker, parent of a lead-poisoned child.

Owners are still responsible for the abatement costs—they are billed once the work is completed, and if not paid, these costs will be placed on their tax bill.

The establishment of this system (assuring the legal authority and administrative processes) has been a real public health accomplishment.

Thanks to all partners who made this happen: the leadership and persistence of **Richard Gaeta**, MHD Lead Hazard Prevention Manager, legal guidance from Genevieve O'Sullivan-Crowley and Dave Halbrooks, Assistant City Attorneys, and solid support from John Bryda (Milwaukee Police Department), **Deb Spencer** (MHD CLPPP HUD Program Assistant), Circuit Court judges and MHD's approved lead abatement contractors.

MHD's Health Operations Director Named 'Young Healthcare Executive of The Year'

Bevan K. Baker, CHE, Health Operations Director/Chief Operating Officer for the MHD is the recipient of the 2002 Young Healthcare Executive of the Year. The Wisconsin American College of Health Executives presented the award to Baker on September 20, 2002 at the Wisconsin Health & Hospital Association's Annual Convention in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



Bevan K. Baker (right) receives award from Paul A. Spaude, FACHE (Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives) Regent for Wisconsin

ACHE presents this prestigious award annually to an outstanding healthcare executive who is less than 45 years old and who is in a senior leadership position within a healthcare organization in the state of Wisconsin.

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Reflections on the Peculiar Work of Local Public Health

Milwaukee Health Commissioner Seth Foldy, MD was awarded the 2002 Milton and Ruth Roemer Award for Creative Local Public Health Work on November 9, 2002 at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA). The following were his remarks upon accepting the award.

It is a great honor and pleasure to accept this award. To be fair, I must accept it under mild protest for three reasons:

First, I am being credited for the inspiration, ideas, labor and grit of the Milwaukee Health Department's outstanding public health staff and their scores of community collaborators. These same people get the credit for putting up with me.

Second, for every recipient of this award, we all know there are a dozen more deserving who are just too damn busy to cooperate with a nominator, much less attend APHA.

Third, it inevitably invites some comparison with the careers of Ruth and Milton Roemer. For those who don't know, we stand on Ruth's shoulders every time the law treats the mentally ill with dignity and respect, every time a woman receives reproductive care, every time we spend a dime of tobacco settlement dollars. By contrast, Milton was an underachiever who got the first Canadian universal health care model up and running, invented the scientific study of health services, and pioneered chronic disease prevention in his free time as a local health officer in rural West Virginia. Of course, he had the excuse of being

blacklisted during the McCarthy era. I'm sure I speak for all recipients of this award when I beg to be excused from any comparison with these two extraordinary people.

It is emblematic of the Roemers' caring vision that they created one of very few awards for LOCAL public health work, shining a light on a very peculiar field. We as local public health officials know that we are privileged to have as fun and challenging careers as you can have in government without being arrested. Every day:

- You get to make highly public decisions outside the areas in which you had formal training
- You try to reconcile the principles and ethics of health care with the worlds of politics and commerce
- You do 80% of the nation's public health work while remaining almost invisible to policy makers and the public
- Everything you do is subject to the whims of the local AND state AND federal legislators and taxpayers.

It is one of those great careers for those with no other particular use for evenings and weekends. My respect for the longevity of many dedicated local health officers grows every month I try to fill the role.

So many of the forces affecting local public health seem outside our control: federal legislation, emerging infectious diseases, state funding decisions, the forces of the market and of marketing, health industry trends, tax policy, welfare policy, housing policy... You can compare the local public health official with the captain of an ocean-going ship. Think "Perfect Storm."

The difference is that the local public health workforce actually strives to change the seas on which it sails. Not only must we see that rising wave of syphilis off our port bow, we seek to level it. And this right when the winds of funding shift 180 degrees to come out of the abstinence sector of the compass. It takes every bit of oar, keel, engine, sail and rudder, with the epidemiologist in the crow's nest, managers trimming the sails, leaders leaning on the wheel with all the force they can muster.

No one changes the sea without the sea pushing back. Might we capsize as we shift course from treating lead poisoning as a children's medical problem to attacking the industries that produced it? You bet. Could we be washed overboard for emphasizing reproductive health in our fight against infant mortality? No doubt.

And all those hours spent in community meetings, building collaborations and partnerships...were they well spent? You'll never know, until the waves climb higher and you see the trust and respect of your community partners become the outrigger that keeps the little ship afloat.

Those I must thank are innumerable, beginning with APHA itself, especially the Medical Care and Occupational Health sections, which served as my academy for many years spent in cities without schools of public health. Twenty years ago I started learning from the Roemers, and other public health leaders in forums just like this. The loss of so many leaders this year, like Paul Cornely, Milt Terris, Gene Feingold, Tony Mazzocchi and Helen Rodriguez-Trias is forcing me to grow up and consider what I can offer to younger colleagues. My colleagues in the Public Health Leadership Institute and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) provided critical inspiration and skills when I most needed them. The support of my family and staff and mayor are irreplaceable, and the kindness of community partners in Milwaukee, who politely tolerated my enthusiasm until it could be applied to good purpose, will always be remembered.

Seth L. Foldy
Commissioner of Health



Keenan Staff Moves To Northwest Health Center

by Jill Paradowski and Raquel Madrid-Berkel

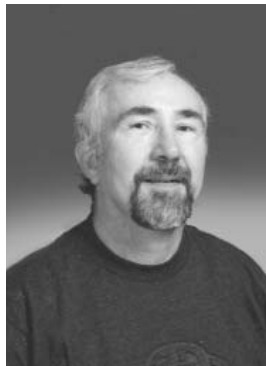
Have you ever moved out of a home of many years and tried to figure out what to keep? Well, the Managers, Public Health Nurses and office support staff at Keenan Health Center (KHC) just completed this challenge. The KHC staff moved to Northwest Health Center (NWHC) as the Milwaukee Health Department decided to consolidate the two centers into one. Although they filled several 50-gallon barrels full of paper, they made sure to save the earth by transporting most of the mountain of paper to recycling centers.

The relocation of staff has been in process since earlier this year, but the final moving day took place on October 8th. This move took on a life of its own for **Tracy Wetzel**, Program Assistant II at Northwest Health Center. She planned the arrival of Keenan staff along with the space layout to accommodate all staff at the NWHC. **Regina Jagers**, Program Assistant II at Keenan Health Center orchestrated everything on the Keenan end. Many details were needed to expedite this grand process, but in the end it was a success. According to Jill, "All of our stuff fit, the phones worked and thanks to the **IT team** our computers all worked by the end of our first day." They now would like to be known now as "Keewest." Stop in and visit them in their new surroundings!

Keenan will remain open for WIC and Walk-in Clinic and will have additional Milwaukee Health Department services in 2003.

Walk A Marathon To End Stroke? Paul Akert says, "Why Not?"

by Raquel Madrid-Berkel



MHD's own Public Health Nurse at Northwest Health Center, **Paul Akert** will be participating in a run/walk marathon for the American Stroke Association. The event will be held on January 12, 2003 in Orlando, Florida. The objective of the event is not only to raise funds for the American Stroke Association but also to build awareness with respect to the prevention of stroke.

Akert has taken on this challenge due to a personal reason. A close friend of the family was affected by a stroke and he admired her great sense of humor and bright disposition despite an uphill recovery. Akert also serves as an inspiration to the 12-18-year-old students he teaches. "My effort to train, walk, and raise money for the American Stroke Association is an encouragement to my students to start or continue their own wellness program", says Akert. His goal is to walk twenty-six miles in seven hours and has two more months to train.

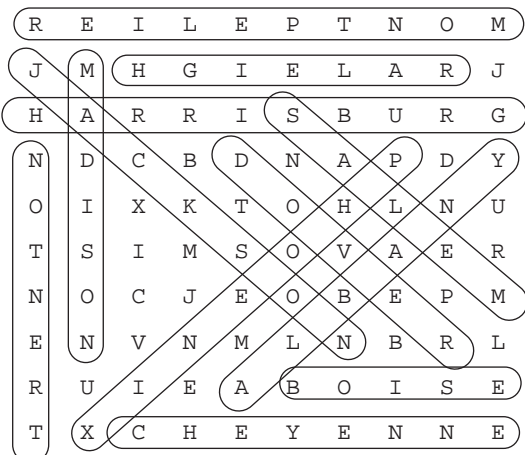
If you are interested in sponsoring Paul, please forward a check payable to the American Stroke Association c/o Paul Akert, 2948 S. Lennox St. Milwaukee, WI 53207 by December 19, or you may send a check directly to him at Northwest Health Center.

Stroke Warning Signals

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing out of one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Just for Fun by Marlene Jamel
Find 12 U.S. Capitols



ALBANY	HARRISBURG	PHOENIX
BOISE	JACKSON	RALEIGH
CHEYENNE	MADISON	SALEM
DOVER	MONTPELIER	TRENTON



ZMB's **Theresa Hernandez**, **Janet Haslem**, **Beth Schuelke**, **Debra Kutchera** and **Carol Leonard** got dressed in the spirit of the season.

Barrett Announces \$565,000 to Improve Health and Safety at Milwaukee Area Child Care Centers

Washington, DC — Congressman Tom Barrett announced today that the City of Milwaukee Health Department has won a \$565,000 federal grant to fund the Health and Safety in Child Care Initiative, a program that will provide additional resources to 65 child care centers across the city that serve high risk children.

Awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal funding will employ health care consultants to provide training and support to child care center directors, staff and parents. The grant will also improve access to health insurance programs for children and families using child care centers.

"I strongly support programs that provide our young children and their families with the means they need to access health and safety education and resources", Barrett said. "The City of Milwaukee can now augment its impressive work in the areas of communicable diseases, lead poisoning and immunization compliance.

Addressing these issues, and others, will promote a higher standard of excellence in child care centers in the greater Milwaukee area".

In July, Congressman Barrett sent a letter to officials at the Milwaukee Health Department, commending the agency for pursuing the grant and offering any assistance he could provide. The Milwaukee lawmaker noted that, with the number of children in child care increasing, some care givers may be struggling with health and safety issues while trying to meet licensing and certification requirements.

The federal grant originated from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, an organization within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that seeks a nation where there is equal access for all to quality health care in a supportive, culturally competent, family and community setting.

'Nation Exposures at Work' Survey Focuses on Healthcare Workers

by George Stewart

I attended a Stakeholders Meeting for the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) of the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) in Seattle, WA. NIOSH announced it is conducting a Nation Exposures at Work Survey (NEWS) to collect nationally representative data about exposures to occupational hazards, exposure controls, health & safety practices and work conditions. NIOSH chose to start with the healthcare industry because: it employs 11 million workers; is expected to have a 50% growth by 2006; has broad range of hazards and occupations, has worked with a doubling of illnesses and injuries in the past decade, plus one-third of instances of workplace violence and Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) occur in this industry.

Nurses, doctors, researchers, academics, managers, union representatives, regulators and consultants in healthcare, provided NIOSH with the industry's concerns regarding healthcare workers hazards at work. Issues of concern to be studied include: ergonomics, stress, violence, biological agents, chemical agents, physical hazards, and safety issues along with other issues.

The result of the NEWS will be used to make recommendations for to governmental and private agencies for changes in rules, regulations and legislation relating to healthcare workers' issues documented and quantified by NEWS.

For more information, please contact George Stewart, RN, BSN Occupational Health Nurse, Senior at ext. 2952, or by email at: gstewa@milwaukee.gov

Deadline for Next Issue:

Please send newsletter articles to
Raquel Madrid-Berkel
at ZMB 3rd Floor
by January 10, 2003
or email them to her:
rmadri@milwaukee.gov

Citywide Milwaukee PAL's Leadership Conference

by Sara Schubert

A Citywide Parents Against Lead (PAL) Leadership Conference was held on October 10, 2002. **Sara Schubert, MHD Primary Prevention Specialist**, facilitated the development and implementation of this successful event. Planning meetings conducted with community resident leaders from MHD's four Community Capacity Projects (CCPs) defined the purpose of the conference: "To bring PAL leaders together to get to know one another, celebrate the successes of the projects, and learn information that is useful to parents participating in the CCPs;"

The event was held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, a formal center rich in history of Milwaukee. The day began with a motivational talk by **Amy Murphy, MPH**, Division Manager of Home Environmental Health programs. The agenda included presentations by each PAL group, and in-services by invited speakers relevant to participants' needs, including the topics: "brain development in early childhood" and "how to work with your lead poisoned child's difficult behaviors." MHD's own **Mary Jo Gerlach**, Nursing Coordinator, delivered the highly-praised information on brain development.

Nearly 50 people participated, with the majority being community resident leaders from the neighborhood CCP sites. As a result of this conference, PAL leaders have become more committed to working collaboratively—in fact, they planned their own informal meeting in the City Hall rotunda during Lead Poisoning Awareness Week later in October. Plans are underway to make this an annual event.

Visions of a Healthy Neighborhood



"Visions of a healthy neighborhood" murals, painted by children involved in the MHD Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Community Capacity Project, were displayed in the City Hall rotunda.

"Take A Loved One To the Doctor" Day

by Raquel Madrid-Berkel

September 24, 2002 was declared *Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day* by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and ABC Radio Networks. On that day, Governor Scott McCallum, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson's Midwest Regional Director, Corey Hoze and MHD's Health Operations Director, **Bevan K. Baker**, CHE united with other community partners to promote the importance of regular visits to the doctor and to share the alarming health gap disparities between the African American population and the White population.

For example:

- African American women are 25 percent more likely to die of heart disease and 86 percent more likely to die of a stroke than White women
- African Americans are 10 times more likely to be infected with HIV
- Infant mortality rates for African Americans are more than twice as high as those for Whites
- African Americans had a death rate due to diabetes that was more than twice that of Whites

"We simply cannot accept poor health in our minority communities. Everyone needs to be aware that these disparities exist, and we must begin to take control of our health," said Hoze. The event was hosted by Milwaukee Health Services and offered free screening services

throughout the day. Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day was part of a national campaign called "Closing the Gap." The campaign will span over the next year and deliver radio spots focusing on various health issues affecting minorities. To learn more about the initiative, visit the Office of Minority Health Website: <http://www.healthgap.omhrc.gov>



Left to right: Walt Buchanan, C.C. Henderson, Corey Hoze, Dr. Pat McManus, **Bevan K. Baker**, Dr. Nick Turkal, Dr. Lorena Chicoye, State Representative Spencer Coggs, Zolio Menendez, and Robert Harris

Getting To Know the New MHD's Communications Officer



The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is pleased to welcome **Raquel Madrid-Berkel** as its new Health Communications Officer (HCO). Raquel came to the MHD after working as the Executive Production Manager for "Leaders In The New Economy," a weekly economic news program which airs on ABC's affiliate WISN Channel 12. Prior to television production,

Raquel served as the Charitable Contributions Administrator for Rockwell Automation. Raquel will work closely with **Commissioner Seth Foldy** and Health Operations Director **Bevan Baker** in representing the MHD, and serve as a primary media contact for the department. She is responsible for coordinating and conveying up-to-date health news and intro-

ducing programs to local media outlets and City of Milwaukee employees. She plans to meet these objectives through the hard work and creative assistance of the Graphics Section made up of **Julie Hanus, Nancy Hills** and **JoAnn Smolarek**.

She has a strong commitment to the Milwaukee community and is actively involved in the Metropolitan Association of Commerce's Young Professionals of Milwaukee, a program dedicated to attracting and retaining talent in Milwaukee. Raquel is eager to incorporate her community and media relation skills to further the various initiatives of the MHD. "The MHD is a vital community-serving department and I will diligently work to ensure that this message is delivered throughout the community."

A job transfer by her husband's company almost ten years ago brought this Chicago, Illinois native to the Milwaukee area. Raquel has two young children, a seven-year-old daughter and a feisty seventeen-month-old little boy. "My days are long and busy, but feel fortunate to be surrounded by such talented people, here at the MHD." She currently lives in Glendale but of course, will be moving to the city in the very near future. In her spare time, she enjoys playing volleyball, cooking and most of all spending quality time with her family and friends.

On the Road Again...



Donna S. Howe, Environmental Hygienist for Disease Control and Prevention and **Dr. Seth Foldy** displayed a research poster on this summer's Milwaukee Biosurveillance Project at the First National Syndromic Surveillance Conference in New York City on September 23. The conference was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NY Academy of Medicine. Other public health authors included **Doug Gieryn, Paul Biedrzycki, Bevan Baker** and also Nancy Haney-Healey of Waukesha County Public Health. Poster session graphics were produced by the MHD Graphics Section.

Dr. Foldy delivered testimony on how information technology supports local emergency preparedness at the U.S. Congress Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics in Washington on September 25.

New Site Opening for Well Woman Program

by Raquel Madrid-Berkel

The Well Woman Program, formerly the Milwaukee Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Program will be opening a new clinic on December 12, 2002 at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center located at 1337 South Sixteenth Street. Services to be offered at the clinic include mammograms, clinical breast exams, pap tests and mental illness risk assessment, to name just a few. Free health services may be provided for women who are between the ages of 35-64 – please call 414-286-2133 to see if you qualify. An open house is scheduled for December 17, 2002 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Also, every woman ages 50-64 who attends a previously scheduled mammography appointment will receive a \$15.00 grocery certificate.

Madison Street Clinic is Moving and Changing Names

Effective December 2, 2002 the new name and address will be:

Walker's Point Community Clinic
611 W. National Ave., Suite 400
Milwaukee, WI 53204

KUDOS



Celebrating those who make our values real

September

Jean Esdall, Immediate Past President of the Wisconsin Environmental Health Association (WEHA) sent a letter to **Julie Hults** thanking her: "for being a speaker at the 23rd Joint Education Conference...The information that you provided to our conference was timely and educational. Your topic was well-received and you provided many references for environmental health professionals". The topic was 'Breaking Language Barriers' and was presented September 18, 2002 in Eau Claire, WI. The information from the presentation was also printed in the WEHA newsletter.

Barbara Giessel, PHN with the HIV Women's Program received an award from the Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church for "commitment to God and our community through your leadership, influence and worthwhile contributions."

October

Lisa Dobs-Haske and **Capri-Mara Fillmore** attended the invitation-only State of Wisconsin Summit on Infant Mental Health on October 1st and 2nd, 2002 in Madison, WI. Both Lisa and Capri-Mara were enthusiastic about this new state initiative. Dr. Fillmore is already using information gleaned in grant applications for the Health Dept.

Ajaib Singh, D.V.M., Ph.D., Chief Microbiologist, was invited to present a lecture by the Infectious Disease Society of Milwaukee (Infectious disease specialists). The topic was "Emergence of E. coli O157:H7 and its Implication in Foodborne Disease Outbreaks." The lecture held on October 8, 2002 (6:30 PM) at the Milwaukee Hilton Hotel was followed by a dinner.

Sadhna Lindvall, Communications Director for County Executive Scott Walker and former MHD Communications Officer wrote: "I accidentally logged on to the Milwaukee Health Department website - it looks fantastic! So simple, and much easier to navigate! Please send kudos to **John Tranetzki** and HIPP for making some great strides with the Milwaukee Health Department web page."

Pat Fauteck received a Certification of Recognition from the American Cancer Society for 'demonstrating outstanding advocacy leadership in the community'. October 24, 2002.

Geof Swain, M.D. received a letter of thanks from Sally Nusslock, Director of Community Health Services for the West Allis Health Department, expressing her gratitude for an inservice Dr. Swain presented on Vaccine-Preventable Disease for West Allis day care workers on October 1, 2002.

Capri-Mara Fillmore will represent the City of Milwaukee Health Department on the Wisconsin Cancer Council (WCC). The WCC is a state-wide organization with an interest in cancer control issues and research in the state of Wisconsin.

November

Pat Fauteck received a "Certificate of Thanks" from the United Seniors of Wisconsin, Inc., November 12, 2002, for helping them with their Smoke-Free Bingo initiative.

On November 1, 2002, Dr. **Capri-Mara Fillmore** made a presentation to the American Cancer Society sponsored Summit on Colorectal Cancer in Madison, WI entitled, 'Nutrition and Colorectal Cancer: What does research show?'.

Dr. **Capri-Mara Fillmore** also presented a paper at the APHA Annual Meeting, November 12, 2002, in Philadelphia, PA., entitled: 'Infant Mortality Risk Factors from Birth Certificate Data Used to Target Public Health Nurse Newborn Home Visiting'. Her co-authors on this paper were **Karen Michalski**, Health Project Coordinator, **Kathy Blair**, Epidemiologist and **Jill Paradowski**, Public Health Nurse Supervisor.

Dr. **Seth Foldy**, Commissioner of Health, has won the top award from the American Public Health Association (APHA) for leadership in a variety of public health programs. Dr. Foldy received the Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize during the association's annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA, November 9-13, 2002. The annual award recognizes a health worker who has demonstrated creative and innovative public health work.



United We Stand to Help a Great Cause

by Raquel Madrid-Berkel

The 2002 Combined Giving Campaign is over and the final numbers are in. According to **Yvette Rowe**, Business Operations Manager, the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) raised a total of \$26,398 for United Way and its member agencies. Unfortunately we did not reach our intended goal of \$30,582, but we certainly had fun trying.

A very special thank you goes out to **Stacy Berdan** who each year coordinates games to draw in participation by employees. This year she was responsible for creating the "Armed Forces Games," which promoted team building through various activities, such as a battleship tournament, bingo and scavenger hunt to find a Milwaukee Fire Fighter. Her efforts helped raise just under \$400 by SSHC. "Stacy is imaginative, creative and very giving of her own time and energy," says **Jan Rach**, SSHC Public Health Nurse Supervisor. We would also like to recognize the coordinators, solicitors and all the MHD employees who helped make this another successful year! Thank you!

ACHE Award *(continued from front page)*

Baker was selected from among numerous young healthcare executives who were nominated for the award by their professional colleagues. The nomination committee selected the winner based on demonstrated leadership, innovative management, executive capability in developing his/her organization and creativity.

Baker is active on several boards and executive committees of healthcare and community organizations. Under the strategic leadership of **Dr. Seth L. Foldy**, Commissioner of Health, Baker spearheaded efforts to improve public health community outcomes while addressing operational effectiveness and service enhancement. "Baker is a highly skilled healthcare executive and he has done a superb job of leveraging innovation to improve business and health care outcomes for citizens", says City of Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
WWW.MILWAUKEE.GOV/HEALTH

The City of Milwaukee Health Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability. Persons needing disability assistance information, language assistance, or interpreter services call 286-3524 or (TTY) 286-2025.

